

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0003] with the following amended paragraph:

[0003] From the European Patent Application EP 0 399 959 A1, a floor covering of elastomer material is known, which is provided with bulged ~~reliefs~~ elevations. The height of the ~~reliefs~~ elevations is between 0.2 mm and 1.0 mm. They are arranged in groups and provided with reflecting or shimmering surfaces, so that, depending on one's angle of view of the floor, the floor has a different appearance. Although the floor covering itself is monochromatic, it takes on the desired effect of differentiated color hues due to the high-luster surfaces. Such floor coverings have the disadvantage of being difficult to clean and of exhibiting substantial resistance to rolling. The latter is perceived as particularly disadvantageous by passengers in airports, train stations, and the like, when they pull roller suitcases or roller bags over the floor covering.

Please replace paragraphs [0006] to [0009] with the following amended paragraphs:

[0006] The present invention provides a floor covering of an elastomer material having a textured surface, which, on its surface, has flat elevations ~~reliefs (i.e. raised regions or elevations)~~ that are nested in one another and overlap one another, the ~~reliefs~~ elevations being of a rectangular or square shape having rounded corners and extents (edge lengths) of between 1.2 and 6 mm, the height of the ~~reliefs~~ elevations (H) being between 0.01 mm and 0.1 mm. The surface structure of the covering is completely nondirectional and of a refractive nature.

[0007] A floor covering of this kind virtually retains the good properties of a flat floor covering, which are manifested in a very low resistance to rolling and a good fastness to cleaning. At the same time, it has an improved appearance, in that it is optically pleasing, and also in that undesired, insignificant amounts of abrasive wear do not become evident. The height of the ~~reliefs~~ elevations is so low that visible soiling is diminished. The selected shape

of the ~~reliefs~~ elevations and their arrangement on the surface result in an appearance which is also optically very pleasing.

[0008] In a preferred formation, the ~~reliefs~~ elevations have edge lengths of between 1.3 to 3.6 mm, at a height H of between 0.02 and 0.05 mm.

[0009] The ~~reliefs~~ elevations in the floor covering are preferably applied in such a way that the floor covering is made up of individual, repeating surface area units.

Please replace paragraphs [0015] and [0016] with the following amended paragraphs:

[0015] In the plan view, Figure 1 shows a detail of floor covering 1 of an elastomer material. Thickness S of floor covering 1 is 3 mm. Its surface 2 is provided with unevenly distributed ~~reliefs~~ elevations 3, approximately 18 large (3.6 mm edge length), 10 medium (approximately 2.1 mm edge length), and 18 small (1.2 mm edge length) squares being arranged over 4 cm². Alternatively, rectangles may also be used, whose length-to-width ratio is 5:1 at a maximum. Thus, a special case of such a rectangle is the square having a length-to-width ratio of 1:1.

[0016] Figure 2 shows the cross section along the line of intersection A – B of floor covering 1 of an elastomer material. Height H of unevenly distributed and partially overlapping ~~reliefs~~ elevations 3 on surface 2 of floor covering 1 is up to 0.08 mm.